

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3

"8b" has been corrected to --6b--.

"8a" (first occurrence) has been corrected to --6a--.

REMARKS

In regard to the drawings objection and the rejections of claims 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, claim 2 has been amended to remove the language. However, please note that the specification describes Fig. 4 as showing the springs 10 as being almost completely compressed (see page 6, lines 7-8).

The claims have been amended above to clarify the claims and overcome any claim objections. If the examiner has further claim objections, he is requested to specify the objections.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 10035726. The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

Claim 6 has been converted from dependent form into independent form, but with some changes. In view of page 4, lines 4 lines of the office action, it is believed that claim 6 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 claims that the detent arms are adapted to slide off the edge of the mating connector, and the secondary locking mechanism is then adapted to be moved into its final position. In DE' 725 the locking mechanism 12 has locking arms 14 with locking projections 16. The detent arms 22v are not on the locking mechanism 12. The detent arms 22v are on a part which moves relative to the locking mechanism 12. The edge 12s is part of the locking mechanism 12. The edge 12s is not part of the mating connector 50. Claim 1, on the other hand, claims that the detent arms are adapted to slide off the edge of the

mating connector. There is no disclosure or suggestion in DE '726 that detent arms 22v are adapted to slide off the edge of the mating connector 50. The features of claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 3-5 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claim 2, similar to claim 1, claims that the detent arms are adapted to slide off the edge of the mating connector. There is no disclosure or suggestion in DE '726 that detent arms 22v are adapted to slide off the edge of the mating connector 50. The features of claim 2 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Therefore, claim 2 is patentable and should be allowed.

Claim 7 has been added above to claim the features recited therein.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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12/22/06

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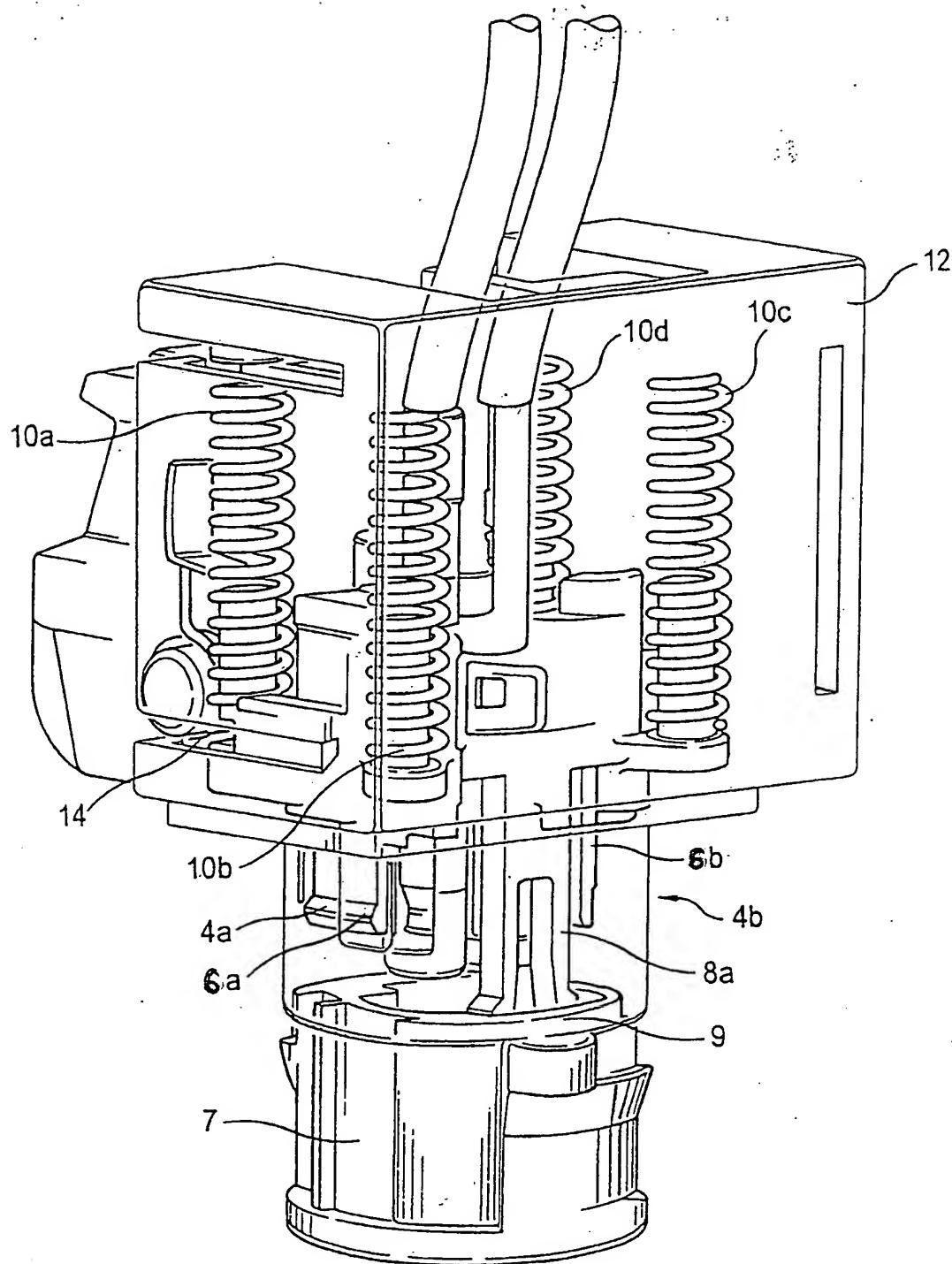


FIG. 3